

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 3, 12, and 15-18 without disclaimer of the underlying subject matter or prejudice against subsequent future prosecution. Applicant also amends claims 1 and 8-10, and adds new claims 19-23. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14 and 19-23 are pending in the application.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully request in view of the following Remarks.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS.

By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim objection is moot.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The Office Action rejects: claims 1-2, and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Kanube U.S. Patent 6,456,282 ("Kanube"), claims 5-7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Kanube in view of Sakamoto U.S. Patent 5,594,463 ("Sakamoto"); and claims 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Kanube in view of Miyazawa U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0150247 ("Miyazawa").

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

Among other things, the display device of claim 1 includes a feedback mechanism configured to operate in response to the output voltages to control a reference voltage of the display driver device and to maintain substantially constant a voltage value between a supply node and the output nodes; means for detecting one or more open outputs at one or more of the output nodes of the display driver device; and means for inhibiting the feedback mechanism from responding to the output voltages at the one or more output nodes having the open outputs upon detection by the detecting means of the one or more open outputs.

Applicant respectfully submits that Kanube does not disclose any display

device that includes this combination of features.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Kanube.

Claim 2

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 10

Among other things, the display driver device of claim 10 includes a feedback mechanism configured to operate in response to the output voltages to control a reference voltage of the display driver device and to maintain substantially constant a voltage value between a supply node and the output nodes; and a detector including a differential amplifier for detecting one or more open outputs at one or more of the output nodes of the display driver device and inhibiting the feedback mechanism from responding to the output voltages at the one or more output nodes having upon detection by the detecting means of the one or more open outputs.

Applicant respectfully submits that Kanube does not disclose any display driver device that includes this combination of features.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 is patentable over Kanube.

Claim 11

Claim 11 depends from claim 10 and is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 10.

Claims 5-9 and 14

Claims 5-9 and 14 depend variously from claims 1 and 10. Neither Sakamoto nor Miyazawa remedies the shortcomings of Kanube as set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 10. Accordingly, claims 5-9 and 14 are deemed patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 10.

NEW CLAIMS 19-23

New claims 19-20 depend from claims 1 and 10, respectively, and are deemed

patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 10.

Among other things, the display drivers of new claims 21-23 all include a feedback mechanism configured to operate in response to the output voltages to control a reference voltage of the display driver and to maintain substantially constant a voltage value between a supply node and the output nodes; and means for inhibiting the feedback mechanism from responding to the output voltages at one or more output nodes which have open outputs. Applicant respectfully submits that no combination of the cited references would produce a display driver with this combination of features, and therefore claims 21-23 are patentable over the cited art for at least these reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14 and 19-23 and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (571) 283.0720 to discuss these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE & WHITT

By: 

Kenneth D. Springer
Registration No. 39,843

VOLENTINE & WHITT
One Freedom Square
11951 Freedom Drive, Suite 1260
Reston, Virginia 20190
Telephone No.: (571) 283.0724
Facsimile No.: (571) 283.0740